

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 10-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Preliminary Matter

Applicants note that claim 19, which was added as a new claim in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c) filed February 21, 2006, was not mentioned in the Action dated October 30, 2006. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to examine claim 19 on the merits.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-6, 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al (EP 1 223 196 A2) in view of Oshima (JP 2002-040652).

Applicants respectfully submit that in the binder polymer used in the present invention, R² in formula (i) has a chain structure. However, neither of Nakamura et al nor Oshima et al teaches a binder polymer within the scope of the present claims. In the binder polymer of Oshima (JP 2002-040652), R² in formula (i) has a cyclic structure (claim 1 and Abstract). Since neither of Nakamura et al and Oshima teach a binder polymer wherein R² in formula (i) has a chain structure as in the present invention, the present invention is not rendered obvious. In this regard, Applicants note that the above argument was effective in overcoming a similar rejection (Nakamura in view of another Oshima reference), as can be seen from paragraph 8a on page 5 of the Office Action of May 17, 2006.

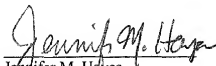
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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